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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 10/536,773 | 07/17/2006 | Akio Yamada | 070793.0162 | 4223 |
| 21003 | 7590 | 08/13/2007 | | |
| BAKER BOTTS L.L.P. 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA 44TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10112-4498 | | | EXAMINER PAUMEN, GARY F | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 2833 | |
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| | | | 08/13/2007 | PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/536,773

Applicant(s)

YAMADA ET AL.

Examiner

Gary F. Paumen

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 18 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 7-17, 19, 20 and 22-29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/26/05, 1/9/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 21 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 1, on lines 5 and 8, "conductor" and "portion", respectively, should be made plural. Claim 3, line 3 and claim 4, line 3, "is" should be -- are --. Claim 6, line 3, -- are -- should be inserted before "fixed." Claim 7 should depend from claim 2 due to the recitation of "the contacts", and such dependency has been assumed; on line 3 "portion" should be plural. Claim 9, lines 3-4, "each at position corresponding to engaging portion of said locking member" should apparently be -- at positions corresponding to engaging portions of said locking members --. Claim 11, line 2, -- a -- should be inserted before "necessary." Claim 12, the last two lines should apparently read -- protrusion pieces are adapted to pierce into the coaxial cables, thereby causing the protrusion pieces to contact the center conductors and the braids of the coaxial cables." Claim 21, line 3, -- are -- should be inserted before "fixed." Appropriate correction is required.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2001-15187 in view of JP 2000-195619 and JP 11-307187.

JP 15187 substantially discloses the claimed invention, including a plug connector comprising coax cables 2, flexible circuit board 3, and ground bar 5 having projection pieces 5A. JP 15187, however, does not disclose a receptacle connector,

nor the flexible circuit board having lands connected to the center conductors, nor the projection pieces being L-shaped and fixed to the board by soldering. JP '619 discloses flexible circuit board 11 having lands 12 connected to center conductors 2, and to provide the board of JP 15187 with lands for the center conductors thus would have been obvious, for ease of termination. JP 307187 (Figure 13) discloses receptacle connector 26, and to provide a receptacle connector for JP 15187 thus would have been obvious, to allow circuit continuity. To form the projection pieces of JP 15187 in an L shape would have been an obvious equivalent of substantially the same function. To fix the projection pieces to the board by soldering would have been obvious since soldering conductors to circuit boards is commonplace.

Claims 2, 7-17, 19, 20 and 22-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: none of the prior art of record, particularly the applied art, discloses or teaches the receptacle shell engaging the ground bar, nor the ground bar having protrusion pieces which piece into the coaxial cables to contact the center conductors and the braids, nor the ground bar preventing erroneous insertion, in combination with the rest of the subject matter of the independent claim and any intervening claims.

The other references cited on Form 892 disclose similar grounded connectors.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary F. Paumen whose telephone number is 571-272-2013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

gfp

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary F. Paumen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.